

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the following paragraph beginning at page 34, line 12 to page 36, line 13:

The electrostatic conveyance member 122C for conveying the toner using the electrostatic effect in accordance with the third preferred embodiment of the present invention is now discussed. Fig. 11 is a cross-sectional view of a toner electrostatic conveyance member 122C, and Fig. 12 is a plan view of the toner electrostatic conveyance member 122C. The electrostatic conveyance member 122C includes a base plate 101 and a plurality of electrode sets of electrodes 102. Each set includes three electrodes 102, and the electrode sets are arranged at predetermined intervals along the direction of conveyance of toner (in a direction represented by the letter c). The surfaces of the electrodes 102 are coated with a surface protective layer 103 made of an inorganic or organic insulating material. The surface of the surface protective layer 103 serves as a conveyance surface of the toner T. The base plate 101 may be made of ~~a~~ an insulating material such as glass, resin, or ceramic. Furthermore, the base plate 101 may be manufactured by coating a stainless steel plate with an insulator made of silicon dioxide, or may be a flexible plate such as polyimide film. The electrodes 102 are manufactured by forming a layer of electrically conductive material, such as gold, aluminum, nickel-chromium, or the like having a thickness of 0.1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably, 0.5 to 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  on the base plate 101. The resulting electrodes 102 are then patterned to a desired shape using a photolithographic technique or the like. Each of the electrodes 102 has a width L in the direction of conveyance of toner ~~power~~ powder ranging from one to twenty times the mean diameter of the toner particle. The spacing R of the electrodes 102 in the direction of conveyance of the toner powder is also one to twenty times the mean diameter of the toner particle. The surface protective layer 103 may be a film of an inorganic material such as  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_4$ ,  $\text{SiON}$ ,  $\text{BN}$ , or  $\text{TiN}$ ,  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ , or an organic material

such as silicone based resin, polyimide based resin, polyamide based resin having a thickness of 0.5 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably, 0.5 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ . If a silicone based resin is used for the surface protective layer 103, the toner is easily triboelectrically charged by the contact with the surface protective layer 103 when the toner is conveyed on the electrostatic conveyance member 122C. The toner is thus sufficiently charged. In the development unit 12C of the third preferred embodiment, the toner that has the amount of charge of  $-0.1 \text{ fC}/\mu\text{m}$  or less at the time of supply to the development roller 121 reaches a level of  $-0.2$  to  $-0.3 \text{ fC}/\mu\text{m}$  appropriate for development and sufficient enough to cause the toner to fly to the development roller 121. The development unit 12C also includes a power supply for applying n-phase voltages to the electrodes 102 to generate a moving travelling electric field between the electrodes 102 of the electrostatic conveyance member 122C. The moving travelling electric field is used to convey the toner across the electrodes 102.

Please replace the following paragraph beginning at page 49, line 7 to line 10:

The volume resistivity ~~resistively~~ of the surface of the electrostatic conveyance member 122 in accordance with the first and second preferred embodiments that perform the contact development process may be  $10^6 \Omega\text{cm}$  or lower.

Please replace the following paragraph beginning at page 55, line 6 to line 25:

The toner charge amount changing unit may be arranged downstream of the development zone and upstream of the toner supply zone along the direction of rotation of the development roller. The toner charge amount changing unit changes the amount of charge of toner ~~to~~ in the toner of the portions where the toner has been consumed ~~portion~~ with the toner

thereof consumed in the development zone and the toner of the portions where the toner has not been consumed ~~uneconsumed portion~~ so that these toners are movable to the electrostatic conveyance member in the toner supply zone. Upon reaching the toner supply zone, the toner on the development roller with the amount of charge thereof changed moves to and is recovered to the electrostatic conveyance member. The toner supply electric field generated in the toner supply zone feeds the toner charged at the predetermined polarity from the electrostatic conveyance member to the surface of the development roller from where the residual toner has been recovered. This arrangement controls image faults such as the density non-uniformity and residual images due to the non-uniformity in the amount of toner sticking to the surface of the development roller, and residual images.